Activation of a Joint Commission on Education with Pakistan

2927. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given a go ahead for "activation" of a joint commission on education with Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the activities that are proposed to be planned between the two educational bodies; and

(d) to what extent this would help to boost people to people contact between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E.AHAMMED): (a) to (d) In October 2005, India and Pakistan agreed to revive the Joint Commission set up in 1983, which had not met since 1989. The 4th session of the Joint Commission was held in Islamabad on October 4, 2005 under the co-chairmanship of the Indian External Affairs Minister and the Pakistan Foreign Minister. It was decided to set up Technical Level Working Groups on Agriculture, Health, Science & Technology, Information, Education, I.T. & Telecommunications, Environment and Tourism. The Working Group on Education is yet to meet.

Border talks with China

2928. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian and Chinese Special Representative held another *i.e.* eighth round of border talks;

(b) if so, whether any package of settlement of the boundary issues was evolved as a result thereof, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether cross border trade across Nathu La pass has since been commenced, if so, the volume of extent of the two way trade and the main items of trade to the from China?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E.AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Eighth Round of talks between the Special Representatives of India, Shri M.K. Narayanan, National Security Adviser and Mr. Dai Bingguo,

Executive Vice Foreign Minister respectively, on the India-China Boundary Question was held in XI" and beijing in China from June 25 to June 27, 2006. The special Representatives continued their discussions on an agreed framework for a boundary settlement on the basis of the "Agreement on Political Parameters and Guiding Principles for Settlement of India-China Boundary Question", which was signed on April 11, 2005. Talks were held in a friendly, cooperative and constructive atmosphere.

(d) Border trade between India and China through the Nathula Pass was resumed with effect from July 6, 2006 in accordance with the Memorandum on Expanding Border Trade signed between India and China on June 23, 2003. As of August 17, 2006, the volume of two-way border trade through the Nathula Pass amounted to Rs. 3,52, 285. Among the main commodities of trade are non-basmati rice atta (flour), tea and wool.

Visit of CPM delegation to Nepal

2929. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the delegation of CPM which visited Nepal during negotiation with the Maoists carried a brief from Government;

(b) if so, the salient features of that brief; and

(c) if not, in what capacity did the CPM members negotiate with the interim Government of Nepal and the Maoists leader in Kathmandu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E.AHAMMED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The delegation comprised leaders of the CPM.

Terrorist camps in Bangladesh and Pakistan

2930. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of terrorist training camps located in Bangladesh and Pakistan;

(b) whether Government have taken any measures to get these terrorist training camps dismantled;

(c) whether Government propose to raise this issue at the UN-Security Council;